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REVIEWS.

Street Railway Reports Annotated. Edited by Frank G. Gilbert, of the Albany Bar. Matthew Bender, Albany, N. Y. Vol. I., cases. Sheep, pp. 943.

With the development of our civilization and its increasing intricacies, there has been emphasized the necessity of specialization to make possible the attainment of great skill or learning. This specialization, long since a matter of course in the trades, has, during the past century, been making great strides in the professions, and with the vast growth of knowledge and of reliable sources of information and with the outlook for still greater expansion in these lines, it is in this specialization that the chief hope for the future development of legal learning lies. That these requirements are being realized is evidenced, among other things, by the increasing number of text-books on subjects which would, not long ago, have been considered mere insignificant subdivisions of the earlier developed branches of the law. Another sign of the times is the increasing number of such volumes as the *Electric Reporters*, and the recently begun *Case Law and Index* series. Of similar significance is the appearance of the first volume of the *Street Railway Reports*, a substantial compilation, on a thoroughly modern subject. It is the editor's purpose in this series to report, with annotations, all cases from April 1, 1903, bearing upon the general subject of electric or street railways, decided in the Federal courts and the State courts of last resort, as well as other cases of interest and importance on the same topic. The series will prove a great assistance to all those dealing with this rapidly growing branch of the law.

C. C. R.

Parsons on Contracts. Ninth edition. By John M. Gould. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. 1904. 3 vol., pp. 2369. Sheep.

No lawyer needs an introduction to Mr. Parsons' treatise. Probably no authority on contracts has been, and is, so frequently cited in decisions. While of less value to the student because it lacks the logical synthesis in structure of its more modern rivals, and while prevented by the wide scope of subjects of which it treats from dealing in detail with each, still its intrinsic worth and breadth of view make it a classic to be ranged on the shelves of the library beside *Blackstone* and *Kent*. Yet the increasing progress of the law discloses defects in the text of all its books, to be remedied by pruning here, by engrafting there. This is the task of the editor; and, in this case, well has he accomplished it. His annotations cite the latest decisions in support, and in expansion of the text. His

summaries of the statute law are complete and up-to-date. And by the retention of the notes of his predecessors he has given to the work the value of cumulative research and verification.

W. M. M.

Cyclopedia of Law and Procedure. Edited by William Mack and Howard P. Nash. American Law Book Company, New York. 1903, 1904. Vol. 9, pp. 998; vol. 10, pp. 1370. Sheep.

Without proving the worth of an encyclopedia by practice it is almost impossible to pass criticism upon it. A work of this character is tested only by experience, and its value determined by the assistance it offers in searching out the law. However, on a short acquaintance with the books several points of marked importance over the preceeding encyclopedias are noticeable. An encyclopedia is composed of three parts, the analytical indexes, the text proper, and the citations. The practitioner is concerned more especially with the first and last. In these two departments the editors have made the greatest improvements. The index of each subject is divided into more main topics than has heretofore been customary. This is a decided advantage. There is a less amount of small type to look over in finding the law of the case. The subject of corporations well illustrates this. The index here is divided into more than twenty headings, as, for example, "By-Laws, Rules and Regulations," "Directors," "Bonds and Mortgages," being of such a character that it is easy to associate a point of law with the proper topic. This introductory index refers the reader to the very minute analysis which precedes the discussion. In detail the analyses are more exhaustive than we find in the Century Digest, but there is no reason why this should lead to confusion. Using the text as a medium, cases in point are the object of our search. It is essential, then, that the authorities given in support of a proposition should support it, that they should be the best law on the subject, and should be arranged according to states. It is a common criticism on the encyclopedia now in use that the authorities do not always support the propositions laid down in the text. By looking over a few columns of citations one cannot say whether or not this criticism will apply to the *Cyclopedia of Law and Procedure*.

The whole of each topic, including Pleadings, Evidence, and questions of Law and Fact, are treated under a single head. This is the wiser method. Experience has shown that in considering a question of pleading or evidence, encyclopedias on these very subjects are abandoned in favor of the work which treats a topic from every standpoint. The leading articles of Vol IX. are Contracts, and Copyrights, the former written by J. D. Lawson and the latter by Edmund Wetmore. The discussion of Contracts is especially valuable, because of the clear treatment of the modern law which it contains. Such subjects as Advertisement, under Offer and Acceptance, and Contracts in Restraint of Trade, are carefully and clearly treated. The same may be said in general of Copyrights. With the